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and comprehensive. Our objection to Scholten's disquisition on Modern Materialism and its causes is rather that it is too severe upon the materialists than that it diverges from the common theory. The article on the Future Life, by Réville, is not only a complete refutation of the sceptical views of Strauss, but is a most vigorous and original plea for the continued being of man, on teleological grounds. The themes of the volume are various, and the several essays are skilfully arranged, so as to go on from science and dogma to the Church and the Scriptures. In ability of reasoning, in breadth of survey, and in freshness of thought, these essays, we must think, are decidedly superior to those of the English volume which has made so much stir. They are a more valuable contribution to religious science, though they are only specimens of what the writers are giving forth continually. They will unquestionably stimulate an appetite for more of the same kind; and they will do good if they call attention to the remarkable development which is now showing itself, not only in the Protestant, but in the Catholic Church of France. Not the least valuable among the contents of the volume are the short introductory notices of the several writers, which have been furnished by Dr. Réville. An article in the *Christian Examiner* of November, 1859, gave an account of Timothy Colani and his labors as a preacher and editor, but the biography of the other writers in the volume will be, we doubt not, entirely new to English and American readers. We trust that the present work may be only the beginning of a series which shall reproduce the fruits of French theological thought and study, as the Foreign Library of the Messrs. Clark of Edinburgh has reproduced the best theology of Germany.

The translations are unequal in merit. Those by Dr. Davison are well done; others are indifferent, and some are very poor. The kind and quantity of typographical blunders are disgraceful to any respectable publishing house.

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2. — *L'Ouvrière*. Par JULES SIMON. Paris: Hachette. 1861. 12mo. pp. 426.

WHATEVER comes from the pen of M. Jules Simon is well worth reading. He touches no subject which he does not dignify, illustrate, and, we had almost said, exhaust. He does nothing lightly, nothing carelessly; but all his works have an earnestness which comes from deep and strong conviction. He has written about Natural Religion in the spirit of a sincere and serious believer in revealed religion. He has written about Duty in words which make Wordsworth's Ode seem tame in the comparison. He has written about Liberty with insight

as keen as that of John Stuart Mill, whom the English regard as the master on this theme, and with eloquence far surpassing his. With philosophic and metaphysical tastes, he yet brings to practical matters a zeal and a skill which are rare in men who call themselves practical. The historian of the "Alexandrine School" can bend himself to the investigation of the sanitary and industrial condition of modern France as to a task of love. The philosopher is a patriot, the patriot is a philanthropist, and the philanthropist is an ardent reformer.

The last work of M. Simon, and, in our judgment, his most useful work, is this treatise on the labor and the needs of the female operatives of the French empire. It has at once all the pathos of a poem and all the accuracy of a scientific report. The writer sympathizes with the class which he describes, and does not constrain his speech to cold observation and suggestion. Yet his tone is moderate; there are no invectives against bad rulers, no bitter laments over any sins or follies. He aims only to set forth the actual state of women in the working class, and to show, if he can, how the evils may be remedied, and the condition of this class made tolerable, and even comfortable. His book is divided into four parts. The first treats of the labor of women in the silk manufacture, which is performed mostly by hand. He shows here the vast superiority, morally, of labor at home to labor in the workshops, and the greater safety of this work when done in country homes to the same work when done in crowded city quarters. The second part treats of labor in the factories where mechanical power is used, especially in the factories of cotton, woollen, and linen goods. The third part is devoted to what the author calls "*La Petite Industrie*,"—the occupations of knitting, sewing, embroidery, making gloves, shoes, bonnets, lace, and all the minor articles of convenience and luxury,—domestic service being included under this head. The fourth part treats of the remedies which have been tried for the evils incident to female labor, and of those which ought to succeed,—of almsgiving, of hospitals, of societies for mutual economy and aid, of model lodging-houses, of free education, and the like. This abstract of topics, however, can give no idea of the full and interesting discussion which M. Simon has made under every head,—of the details of processes, economies, habits of life, and morality which he has furnished, sufficiently, but not redundantly. His book is a picture, or rather a series of pictures, of the private and the common life, the liabilities, the miseries, and the few blessings of women condemned painfully to earn their daily bread and the bread of their children. His statistics and figures are more eloquent even than his rhetoric, and if the resulting impression is one of sadness, it is not the fault of the writing so much as of the

facts. We had supposed that the French laboring woman was superior in condition to the English ; but this book undeceives us. The rate of wages is lower than in England, and in few instances is above the lowest amount necessary to sustain life. Very few French women are enabled to make any provision for their future ; and the illicit connections which they are so ready to form, and which the custom of the nation not only tolerates, but encourages, are really in most instances the alternative to utter destitution.

For the evils of the system of female labor in France M. Simon sees a cure only in the influences of *home* and of domestic life. He is sanguine in his estimate of this remedy, and he has no faith in any other. Trade-unions and relief-associations may be useful in some degree, but they are only secondary, and can do no good without the influences of the family. Mere charitable institutions seem to M. Simon to be, with all their good intentions, positively injurious, fostering the evil they are designed to heal. The spirit of this book, and its noble vindication of honorable married life, and of life in the country as better than the crowded life of cities, cannot be too highly commended ; and though it was written of French women and for France, many of its suggestions are apt and useful for America and its workwomen.

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3. — *Les Misères d'un Millionnaire.* Par AMÉDÉE ACHARD. Paris : Hachette. 1861. 2 vols. 12mo. pp. 688.

OF any book which bears the name of Amédée Achard as its author it may be confidently predicted that it will be well written, will abound in scenic contrasts and dramatic positions, will have no sickly sentiment, and will be unsatisfactory in its moral conclusions. M. Achard's theory of life seems to be, that virtue, purity, and disinterestedness are excellent, and would be expedient if they were only possible ; that worldliness, ambition, social pride, and large wealth are sure to bring misery, but that they are social necessities as well as the natural instincts of the depraved human heart. In this last brilliant novel he has undertaken to show what wretchedness accompanies the possession of wealth ; how unhappy a man who has acquired millions may be made by his property, even when he feels secure in his place ; how domestic difficulties, the follies of a wife, the extravagances of children, the deception of clerks and servants, the fluctuations of commerce, the anxieties, fears, and mortifications incident to the position of a nabob, may destroy all the satisfaction which comes from the consciousness of being rich, and of being powerful through riches. The series of scenes and developments which brings in this conclusion is admirably drawn and